

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 TRSE-00

CIEP-03 OMB-01 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /167 W

----- 098457

R 110118Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4058

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, XC, AS

SUBJECT: INDOCHINA DONORS' MEETING

REF: STATE 192069

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1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY LEFT AIDE MEMOIRE AT DFA SEPT 10,

EMBODYING POINTS IN REFTEL ON INDO-CHINA AID DONORS' MEETING IN PARIS OCT 17. DFA OFFICER UNDERTOOK TO HAVE AIDE MEMOIRE FULLY STUDIED AND CONSIDERED. HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT AUSTRALIAN LABOR GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY DECLINE TO JOIN ANTICIPATED AID SUB-GROUP ON VIET-NAM, UNLESS DRV AGREED TO DEAL WITH IT OR WITH SPECIAL SUB-GROUP ON NORTH VIET-NAM. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH AUSTRALIAN AID TO SOUTH VIET-NAM IS MUCH LARGER THAN AID TO NORTH VIET-NAM, AUSTRALIA DOES NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO REDUCE AID TO SAIGON GOVERNMENT TO BALANCE AID TO HANOI. HE SAID THAT, EVEN IF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DECIDED NOT TO JOIN SUB-GROUP ON VIET-NAM, HE SAW NO OBSTACLE TO AUSTRALIA'S JOINING SUB-GROUP ON LAOS. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF LEFT AIDE MEMOIRE EMBODYING POINTS IN REFTEL WITH DFA (FEAKES, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, SOUTH ASIAN DIVISION) ON SEPT 10. FEAKES UNDERTOOK TO HAVE FULL STUDY MADE OF POINTS MADE AND SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US.

3. FEAKES COMMENTED THAT, IN EFFECT, U.S. WAS ASKING AUSTRALIA TO RECONSIDER ITS AID POLICY TOWARDS THE TWO VIET-NAM'S. EMBOFF NOTED THAT, ON CONTRARY, AIDE MEMOIRE SPOKE OF PROSPECT OF FORMATION OF DONOR SUB-GROUPS FOR VIET-NAM AND LAOS, UNDER IBRD AND ADB AUSPICES. THERE WAS NO DISTINCTION MADE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH VIET-NAM. POSSIBLE SPECIAL SUB-GROUP FOR NORTH VIET-NAM WOULD ENCOUNTER NO RESISTANCE FROM U.S., THOUGH WE ANTICIPATED DRV WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE INTERESTED IN SUCH MULTILATERAL AID APPROACH. FEAKES SAID THAT, UNLESS THERE WAS SUB-GROUP FOR NORTH VIET-NAM AS WELL AS SUB-GROUP WITH NAME VIET-NAM (BUT WHICH, IN FACT, WOULD BE CONCERNED WITH SOUTH VIET-NAM), HE BELIEVED THAT LABOR GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA WOULD NOT PRT NOT JOIN. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, HE SAID HE ANTICIPATED NO PROBLEM IN AUSTRALIA'S JOINING SUB-GROUP ON LAOS.

4. FEAKES CONFIRMED THAT GOA IS PROVIDING AID TO GVN AT RATE OF ABOUT US\$6.0 MILLION ANNUALLY, WHEREAS
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AUSTRALIAN AID TO NORTH VIET-NAM HAS NOT YET GONE ABOVE US\$900,000 ANNUALLY, THOUGH SOME ITEMS ARE CURRENTLY IN PIPELINE. HOWEVER, FEAKES SAID IT WAS NOT RPT NOT GOA INTENTIOAN TO HOLD DOWN AID TO SOUTH VIET-NAM TO LEVEL OF AID TO NORTH VIET-NAM IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN BALANCE. EMBOFF NOTED THAT ONE OF PRIME FUNCTIONS OF AID DONOR GROUPS WAS TO COORDINATE AID PROGRAMS. IF AUSTRALIA DID NOT RPT NOT JOIN SUB-GROUP ON VIET-NAM

FOR REASONS FEAKES HAD NOTED, WOULD INFORMAL AID COORDINATION BE POSSIBLE? FEAKES REPLIED HE THOUGHT THIS WAS POSSIBLE, THOUGH HE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK INTO ENTIRE QUESTION.

5. COMMENT: BELIEVE THAT FEAKES (WHO PERSONALLY DOES NOT RPT NOT APPEAR TO AGREE WITH ALL ASPECTS OF GOA POLICIES IN INDO-CHINA) HAS CORRECTLY ANTI-CIPATED WHAT AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT POSITION WILL BE ON DONOR SUB-GROUPS FOR VIET-NAM AND LAOS. THIS IS REFLECTION OF WHAT WE CONSIDER IS ERRONEOUS VIEW OF SITUATION AND PROSPECTS IN INDO-CHINA BY LABOR POLITICIANS, WHOSE OPPOSITION TO VIET-NAM WAR HAS CONTINUED TO AFFECT THEIR VIEW OF CURRENT AND CONSIDERABLY ALTERED SITUATION. ONLY CHANGE OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD PRODUCE DIFFERENT ATTITUDE, IN EMBASSY VIEW, AND THIS IS POSSIBILITY IN NEXT YEAR OR TWO. MEANWHILE, IF GOA DECLINES TO JOIN SUB-GROUP ON AID TO VIET-NAM FOR REASONS FEAKES HAS SUGGESTED, BELIEVE IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO MAKE MOST OF OPPORTUNITIES LIKELY TO EXIST FOR INFORMAL COORDINATION OF AID, LOOKING TO CHANGE OF ATTITUDE IN FUTURE. END COMMENT
GREEN

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